

A POSTCARD COLLECTION
OF BOOKHAM

By

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Album 3
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The Bookhams

Little Bookham Street - Weale's

In 1902 Mrs Mary Ann Weale moved to no 111, which is next door to the present shop at no 113. In 1912 her son, Frank Weale, started a coal business in the neighbouring yard with an office at no 107; he later sold coke and paraffin as well as coal. Next to the coal yard was the farm where they kept cows, pigs, chickens etc until after WWII. The farm buildings were demolished in 1997 and houses built on the site. A general store was opened at no 109 with the post office being added around 1914; unfortunately the post office has now closed. Later the shop was transferred to no 111; a further move came much later with an expansion of the business when the shop was transferred to no 113, with the addition of a considerable extension, as it was in 1999.

From 1923 until at least 1928 Frank Weale was Overseer for the Parish of Little Bookham. He married a cousin of Andrew West, the builder, and their son Howard married Vera who continued to run the business after Howard's death until she retired in the early 1990s. In the 1950s and 1960s there was a Romany caravan among the farm buildings. Mr Harris lived here repairing pots and pans and china goods for a living. After the Weales had moved from no 109 the shop was occupied by Mr Fitzgerald, a boot and shoe repairer, until about 1970. He was a very active member of the Bookham Baptist Church and an officer of the Boys' Brigade.



A Frith repro postcard dated c1955 of Weale's. Below is a picture of Weale's Shop taken in 1915. Mary Weale's husband had been the landlord of the Windsor Castle pub, and she remained the licensee for some years after his death. In 1902 she set up a grocery and post office in the left-hand shop of the two shown below in Little Bookham Street, her coal merchant's business operated from the railway station yard. Her son, Frank, took over the coal merchant's business in about 1910 in the shop on the right.



The Bookhams

Little Bookham Street - Woodfield School

Near the junction of Sole Farm Road and Little Bookham Street there had been a girls' private school in the early part of the 1900s. It was named Woodfield. On the left in the postcard is the house in which Miss Smith, the Headmistress, ran the small private school for children up to the age of 10 years.

Just into Sole Farm Road are three modern bungalows. These were built on the site of a corrugated iron bungalow, which had been occupied by Mrs Ragget for a very long time. It was bought and demolished in the 1970s.



Two postcards, the above postally used and dated 1912 showing Woodfield Private School with the pupils posing outside.



The Bookhams

Little Bookham Street - Shaftesbury Cottage/Whitehouse Cottage

Continuing along Little Bookham Street, on the east side, is Whitehouse Cottage. This was until recently two cottages in a row of three, which were probably built in the 16th century. Among a number of other cottages in this part of Little Bookham built around the beginning of the 1900s are Shaftesbury Cottages built in 1899 by Alfred Wales. These are distinguishable by the inlay of stone coloured bricks running in a line around the walls. Members of the Wales family have occupied two of the cottages since they were built. There was a house next door to Shaftesbury Cottages, (seen clearly in the Frith's repro post-card below taken in 1906) which was demolished when the present shop was built. The shop was occupied by F Sayers, baker and grocer, from the mid 1930s until 1970s, then it was Paws and Claws selling animal food. The building was demolished in 2007/8 and three new houses were built.



This picture was taken outside Shaftesbury Cottages in Little Bookham Street c1900. This row of four cottages has a plaque with the name Shaftesbury Cottages and the date 1899. It is not known why they were given this name, but two of the cottages have remained in the same family ever since they were built by Alfred Wales, seen here with his family. He and his wife Polly moved in to the end one when the cottages were finished and then belonged to their grand-daughter, Grace, and one of her daughters lived there in the third one.

Although the Wales family was a large one, it did not include all these children! No doubt the posing for the photograph would have attracted the attention of other local children who were then assembled at the front. Alfred Wales is seen on the left with pipe in mouth and thumbs in lapels; his wife Polly is standing by the pony; and their son Ernest (Grace's father) is probably the lad seated above the wheel.

The Bookhams

Little Bookham Street - Bennetts Farm Place/Pound Cottage/Milton Villas

On the other side of the road there are a number of semi-detached houses that were built by the Epsom Urban District Council in the late 1920s. Next door to these houses was Bennetts Café that closed in the 1960s.

On the east side of Little Bookham Street, behind a row of tall cupressus trees, is the picturesque 17th century Pound Cottage. Next door to Pound Cottage are two semi-detached houses called Milton Villas built and owned by Andrew West. He moved from Merrylands Road, by the station to these smaller premises in the early 1900s.

Next is a small housing development called Bennetts Farm Place, the name being taken from the Bennetts Farm that occupied this site in the 19th century. In 1913 Norris and Company, a small building firm, occupied the farm, buildings and the yard. In 1920 Andrew West set up a builders yard and workshops on the Bennetts Farm site and he lived in the neighbouring house, Springfield that was probably built by his company. The family connection ceased in 1968 with the sale of the firm and the last relative to live at Springfield was Mrs James West who moved out in 1971. The site was sold in the 1980s but in 1989 the workshop buildings were burnt down, In 1992 Springfield was also demolished and the development called Bennetts Farm Place was built.

The local J F Stevens postcard has been postally used, dated 1910. At that time, it was the home of the local builder Stedman, who moved from Halfway House in Lower Road, and Cropley & Sons, Scaffolders. The houses are probably Milton Villas. The pictures are of the front and the rear of Pound Cottage.



The Bookhams

Little Bookham Street - Windsor Castle

The Windsor Castle has its origins in the 16th century, but its first recorded use as a public house was not until 1806. At different times it has been called The Castle, The Windsor Castle and Ye Olde Windsor Castle, which is its current name.

In the later part of the 19th century a member of the Weale family was the landlord and at that time one could buy groceries, coal and coke here, as well as alcoholic drinks. After Mr Weale's death in 1902 his widow was fined for allowing drunkenness on one occasion when she and her son left the pub and opened the store further down Little Bookham Street. Until 1923 the Cobham Brewery had owned the inn but was taken over by the brewers Watney Coombe and Reid. It has changed hands many times but is now owned by Chef & Brewer. In the late 1960s and early 1970s the landlord was a certain Mr. C. V. BOOKHAM.

Legend has it that King Henry VIII's hunting parties used to pass through Bookham and stop at the Windsor, hence its royal name.

The picture on the postcard is dated 1868. Weale's shop which Mary Weale then opened further down Little Bookham Street developed from the shop which she ran here, which can be seen on the right-hand side of the Inn.



The Pub - A brief history

The 'Public House' has been part of English life in one form or another since Roman times. The Roman towns had the 'tabernae' which served food and wine, they would often display vine leaves outside the premises to advertise their business. With the departure of the Romans, 'tabernae' also disappeared. Over the next few centuries, drink developed, especially the local brewed 'ale' a combination of malted barley, water and yeast. It made a rather sweet and often very powerful brew.

The Alehouse

Early alehouses, just like the tabernaes, often used bunches of hop and other associated items of brewing, suspended above the door. In 1393 the practice of hanging a sign outside these premises became compulsory when the law was passed, thus enabling the passing official ale tester or 'conner' to check the quality of the ale provided. One must remember that at this time the water was not always good to drink; therefore, fine brewed ale made a worthy replacement.

The Bookhams

Little Bookham Street - Windsor Castle

Inns

In the early middle ages, many travellers often found accommodation in monasteries.

With the popularity of the Crusades and pilgrimages came 'Inns' some built by the monasteries others by guilds and private owners. By the late 16th century there were about 6,000 in total. However, the inns of these times not only provided sustenance and accommodation for the honest wayfarer, but also became havens for thieves, non-conformists and political activists.

During this time it was thought necessary to licence these premises, in order to control the effects of excessive alcohol consumption, which often led to drunkenness and anti-social behaviour.

The Alehouse Act of 1552, made it necessary for anybody who wished to sell beer or ale to obtain a licence from the Justice of the Peace, and enter in a bond to ensure good behaviour. If the conditions of the licence were broken the licensee could be fined or have the licence withdrawn.



The above S & W Series postcard is dated 1913. Below is Frith's Series card c1950s.



The Bookhams

Little Bookham Street - Windsor Castle

The Tavern

This was a good time for 'Taverns,' because many offered a substantial meal for less than a shilling coupled with a good wine at a fair price. This would often be followed by a pipe full of tobacco, which had been introduced to this country in 1565. Taverns offered companionship and many became regular meeting places.

The main difference between the tavern and the alehouse was that the tavern offered a more leisurely way of life, whereas the alehouse was a place of necessity, especially for those with little money to spend. The tavern on the other hand, were frequented by the professional classes. Dr Samuel Johnson's famous quote was:

'No Sir, there is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn.'



A Real Photo postcard c1920s of the Windsor Castle on the right hand side hidden by the hedge. Below a Judges card c1970s.



The Bookhams

Little Bookham Street - Windsor Castle

The Coaching Inn

Although the coach as a mode of transport had been around for centuries, they were mainly the preserve of the wealthy. In 1657 the first proper coaching route from London to Chester began.

The only other form of wheeled transport that would have been around consisted of agricultural wagons or carts carrying produce and materials.

By 1757 most cities and major towns were on a coaching route. With the growth of coaching, the need for road improvements was crucial, not just for travellers, but for trade and commerce. Coaching inns came in many guises. Location was to play a prominent part in their survival. Those on busy established routes thrived, whilst those on remote country roads had a harder time. Standards also varied, many were highly praised for their good food and accommodation, but stories abound of damp rooms, soiled bed linen and food unfit for human consumption. To make ends meet, some landlords would often conspire with highwaymen to rob their more wealthy guests on route to the next town or village.



A postally used Frith postcard dated 1925. Below is a picture of the fireplace of the Windsor Castle in 1926. The fireplace was on the right hand wall of the front room, entered then through the front door which was on the left of the inn. Most of the surround of this fireplace is still visible. On the right the Windsor Castle has a charabanc outing c1911. These annual 'chara' outings were very popular with customers who saved up for them all year. For many it was their only visit to the sea or other places of interest. The landlord, William Wickens, is in front of the charabanc with twenty-five of his customers. The lone female was possibly Mrs Wickens who ran the Windsor Castle after her husband died.



Little Bookham Street - Windsor Castle

The Public House

The end of the 18th century saw the decline of the tavern, mainly due to changes in social structure and competition from alehouses that had began selling wines. Many of the upper classes stopped using them in favour of gentlemen's clubs.

By the 19th century many establishments were now offering separate bars for their various class of customer. Hence 'Public Bars,' 'Private Bars' and the 'Saloon Bars,' with several local variations became the vogue.

In the early days the Saloon Bar offered popular forms of entertainment such as singing, dancing and various variety acts. Some up-market Saloon Bars/Supper Rooms allowed you to eat as well as drink while watching the entertainment. Public houses were considered socially superior to alehouses, and premises selling the cheap alcoholic drink gin. Many 'gin shops,' or 'gin palaces' as they were commonly called were converted pubs. They had no seating and did not sell food. Once you spent what little money you had, it was time to leave.

In 1830, as a response to the excessive drinking of gin, it was decided to make it easier to sell beer and ale; the Beer Act of that year made it possible for any householder to sell beer, ale or cider by taking out a licence from the excise authorities, rather than the local justices. In 1869 the Wine and Beer Act re-introduced the requirements for retailers to obtain a licence from the Justices.

It was the Victorians who dramatically changed the style of the public house; they built many new ones and also refurbished others. Large plate glass windows were introduced, often displaying the name of the establishment and that of the brewer. The use of advertising mirrors behind the bars also came into fashion.

The advent of the railways and their rapid expansion soon bought the golden age of the stage coach and associated inns to an end. Those inns that were near or close by the new railway network survived, usually as hotels.

Although public houses were traditionally owned and operated by licensed publicans, by the early part of the 20th century many of them were owned by or connected to a small number of brewery companies.



A Frith postcard dated 1930s.

The Bookhams

Little Bookham Street - Rose Cottage/Post House

Next door to the Windsor Castle is Rose Cottage, which was probably built in the 18th century as there are bricks marked with I M 1746, probably the builder's initials and the date of construction. Originally it was a small detached cottage that was extended around the year 1850 converting it into two semi-detached cottages, and evidence of this may be seen both inside and outside. Later still the two cottages were amalgamated into one and the rear single storey extension added.

Close by are two semi-detached cottages built in 1881 as part of Preston Farm. Both houses had been extended in the 1990s. The Post House, the front of which is of the 18th century and of brick and timber was a Post House before the Post Office was introduced to Weale's shop. Next door is the Old School House, which was the National School from the 1880s.



A Frith's series postcard dated 1912. This is looking toward Preston Cross. Rose Cottage is on the right, At this time these cottages faced open fields on the opposite side of the street.

The Bookhams

Little Bookham Street - Dawes Cottage aka Old Cottages

Dawes Cottage, an L-shaped half-timbered 16th century building, was originally two houses. In 1974 this house was in a very poor state but it was then occupied by Dr Witchalls, now of Maddox Farm, who carried out extensive restoration. During the course of renovation an inglenook fireplace was uncovered in each of the two living rooms. In the case of one of them four other fireplaces had been concealed each one in front of another. To one side of the second inglenook fireplace was a bread oven, which also had been concealed. A sealed cellar was discovered beneath the house and it was used to increase the head-room in the ground floor rooms. The earlier part of the house on the left was once a schoolhouse. It has doubled in width since 1884, and was one of several schools in the street at different times. It had two front doors but was one household, since at least 1871.



Two postcards of Dawes Cottage dated early 1900s.

The Bookhams

Little Bookham Street - Dawes Cottage aka Old Cottages

The top S & W Series postcard is dated 1909. Although the picture is entitled 'Old Cottages' and shows two front doors, it had been known as Dawes Cottage, with one household, since at least 1871.

The second is a Frith's postcard dated about 1950s.



The Bookhams

Little Bookham Street - Dawes Cottage aka Old Cottages

The top two postcards are from Frith's. Below is a local J. F. Stevens card, all dated in the 1900s.



The Bookhams

Little Bookham Street - Half Moon Cottage

Half Moon Cottage is on the northeast corner of Little Bookham Street and Lower Road (Preston Cross) and it is one of the oldest properties in the area. Earlier Half Moon Cottage had been one of a number of alehouses in Bookham that were closed by Mrs Chrystie. Between 1909 and the 1920s it was owned by Arthur Bird. A number of alterations have taken place over the years including the addition of a chimney on the north east corner of the building. This 16th century cottage has walls that lean, ceilings that sag, floors that slope, windows that hang at various angles and a neat little staircase, which may not be the safest! One of the living rooms has a fireplace, which appears to have been completely untouched and opens out to about eight feet wide.

During WWII a man known as the King of Poland lived at the cottage. He was believed to be an eccentric Polish count, but that may have been due to the fact that he wore what was considered to be traditional Polish dress.



The postcard is postally used dated 1935 and is of Preston Cross looking down Little Bookham Street from Lower Road. Half Moon Cottage is on the right hand side with Dawes Cottage just discernible on the left. The picture of Half Moon Cottage on the left was taken in 1868. The right hand picture was taken in the early 2000s. The cottage was once known as 'Rolts' and was built with timber felled in about 1500. In the 1871 census there were three households shown as occupants, so the people in the picture may well be Jane Amey, a laundress; Mary Bowra, a retired domestic servant; and Susannah Wood with two of her children. There was no clean supply of drinking water, hence the many ale houses; ale then made without hops did not keep for more than a few days, but at least the process purified the water content.



The Bookhams

Little Bookham Street - Half Moon Cottage

A John Harvey lived here from the 1950s. He had been educated at St John's Leatherhead and later studied architecture. A conscientious objector at the outbreak of the war he was employed by the Ministry of Public Works in helping to preserve bomb damaged buildings. Later still, he specialised in historical architecture, writing many books on the subject. Among the many positions that he held, Harvey was President of the Garden History Society and served for thirty years on the council for Ancient Monuments Society. He wrote an account of Bookham's history between the 13th and 19th Centuries. The account was published in the Bookham Bulletin in serial form, starting with part 1 in March 1953 and ending with part 24 in December 1959. He married in 1934 and one of his two sons continued to live at the cottage until 1999. John Harvey died in 1997, aged 86, at Frome in Somerset.



The Bookhams

Preston Cross

Preston Cross, is at the junction of Lower Road, Little Bookham Street and Rectory Lane. So called because of Preston House on the corner of Rectory Lane/Lower Road (now Preston Cross Hotel) and Preston Farm.

The two postcards below are looking from Rectory Lane down towards Little Bookham Street. The top postcard is dated 1908 and the second is postally used and is dated 1933.



The Bookhams

Lower Road/Preston Cross

Turning right at the crossroads Preston Farm Cottages are on the right. These two semi-detached houses were built in 1905 by Andrew West to house the workers from Preston Farm. Reg Williams was born in one of them and Vera Weale was born in the other.

The first is a local Stevens postcard postally used dated 1921. The second is a S & W Series postcard dated early 1900s. Both pictures are taken from Lower Road looking towards Great Bookham near the junction at Preston Cross. On the left hand side are Preston Farm Cottages with Half Moon Cottage on the other side of the junction.



The Bookhams

Manor House Lane - Manor House

In Manor House Lane is Manor House School. A Queen Anne manor house built in 1710 with curved bays and tall windows. The house sits amidst 17 acres of gardens and parkland. The Manor had been the home of the Lords of the Manor of Little Bookham. Henry Court Willock became the Lord of the Manor in 1906 and, adopting the family name of Pollen, he changed his surname to Willock Pollen. Lack of funds obliged the Pollen family at various times to live either at the Old Rectory or Manor Farm, while letting out the Manor House. In 1914 Little Bookham Manor, The Rectory and The Grange occupied 30 acres.



A local J.F. Stevens postcard postally used dated 1913. The pictures show Manor House as it is today.



The Bookhams

Manor House Lane - Manor House

Mrs Willock Pollen encouraged the game of *stoolball, and the team had considerable success. Mrs Russell was captain and matches were played as such distant places as Virginia Water, Balcombe and Roffey and most years the team won every match they played. The Ladies Pictorial reports a famous occasion when a Grand Match of Stoolball was played on 27th July 1912 between the Bookham Club in connection with the Women's Tariff Reform League and a Team from the Effingham Cricket Club captained by Mr Willock Pollen. The gentlemen were required to play left handed with the right hand in the trouser pocket. The Ladies won scoring 94 runs to their opponents 85. The matches were played in the fields by the Old Rectory and practise sessions were held two evenings a week. The game had a second revival after WWII.

A local J. F. Stevens postcard postally used dated 1904. The pictures below are of the Ladies and Men's Stoolball teams of Little Bookham in 1912. Mrs Willock Pollen is seated on the front row, third from the left.



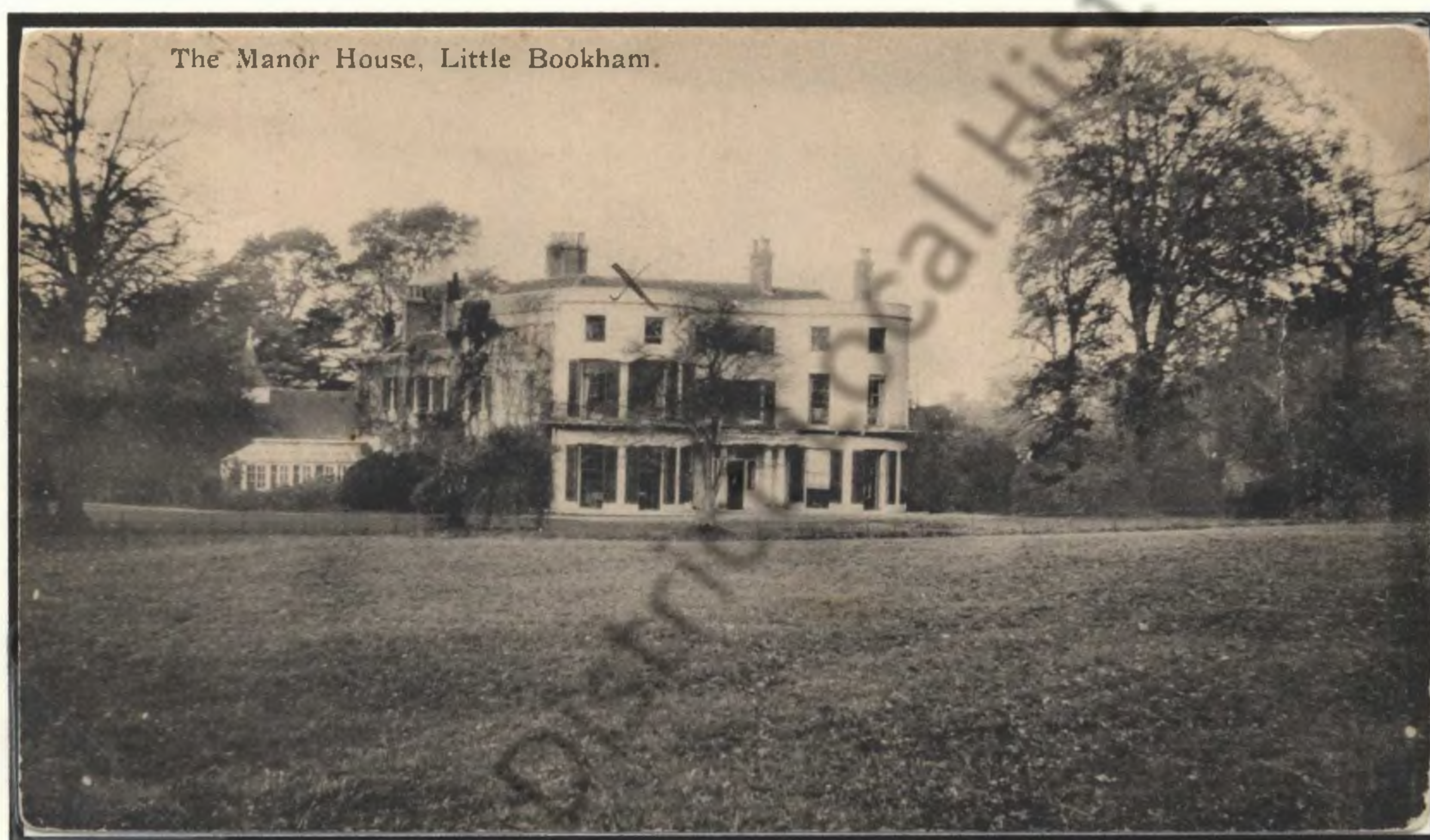
*Stoolball is a sport that dates back to at least the 15th century, originating in Sussex, southern England. It may be an ancestor of cricket (a game it resembles), baseball, and rounders. Traditionally it was played by milkmaids who used their milking stools as a "wicket". The game's popularity has faded since the 1960s, but is still played at a local league level in Sussex, Kent, Surrey and the Midlands. It was officially recognised as a sport by the Sports Council in early 2008. Some variants are still played in some schools, though often, due to safety fears, a tennis ball is used. Most teams are for ladies only, but there are some mixed teams.

The Bookhams

Manor House Lane - Manor House

The Lord of the Manor in the last 350 years has descended through the *distaff side three times and on two occasions the Lord of the Manor has adopted his wife's family name to ensure continuity of the name of Lord of the Manor for a period from 1710 until 1934. One of the earliest Lords of the Manor was Benjamin Madox, who came into the Little Bookham estate in 1637 at the age of five months, on the death of his brother Howard Madox. He died in 1710 and his daughter, Mary married Edward Pollen, who erected three almshouses in Little Bookham, the location of which cannot now be traced, but which were standing in 1838 when the sale was contemplated according to an inventory of the glebe land which then comprised 40 acres.

Edward Pollen's son, Edward, by his second wife, Mary had 15 children, of whom 12 died unmarried, but the eldest, George Pollen, became Rector of the Parish and had nine children. The eldest, Henrietta, in 1790 married John Peter Boileau of Norfolk and Mortlake, who was lineally descended from the ancient family of Boileau and the Barons de Castilenau of the Province of Languedoc in France. This family fled to England in 1690 to avoid persecution of the Protestants by the French King. Henrietta's sister, Anna Marie married Major General Coote Manningham (memorial in Little Bookham Church) who was equerry to the King and Colonel of the 95th or Rifle Regiment of Foot, which Corps he had raised and formed.



A W Richards local postcard dated early 1900s.

*Distaff is used as a descriptor for the female branch of a family e.g., the "distaff side" of a person's family refers to the person's mother and her blood relatives.